

THE
ALABAMA BAPTIST
CONVENTION

1823-1842

[L.C. 1841]

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Rev. J. C. Davis

No one writes for 1828 published
in State seat on the page

MINUTES

OF THE

SIXTH ANNIVERSARY

OF THE

Alabama Baptist State Convention.

FRIDAY, August 15, 1829.

1. THE Meeting commenced by appointment, in the Canaan Meeting-House, in Jefferson County. The introductory Sermon was delivered by Brother COMPERE, from 1 Pet. i. 12, "*Which things the angels desire to look into.*"

2. The President and Recording Secretary being absent, Brother COMPERE was called to the chair, and Brother A. J. HOLCOMBE appointed to minute the proceedings. Brother DENNIS prayed, and the Convention proceeded to business.

3. Communications were read from Auxiliary Societies, and Delegates' names enrolled.

4. All Ministers present, of our own as well as other denominations, together with members of our churches, were invited to a seat with us.

5. Brethren H. Holcombe, Ryan and Compere, were appointed a committee to arrange the business of the Convention; Brethren Chiles, Dennis, Lea, McCraw and Lawler on nomination. The pastor and deacons of the church to select preachers during the meeting.

6. The Minutes of the year not having been published, the manuscript was called for, and read; from which it appeared that Brother McLean was appointed to prepare a circular, which was presented and put into the hands of brethren Chiles and Lee, for correction.

7. Brother Crowzen prayed, and the Convention adjourned till to-morrow 10 o'clock, A. M.

(2)

SATURDAY, August 16.

8. Met according to adjournment; prayer by Br. Compere.

9. The Circular was called for; read, and ordered to be attached to the Minutes.

10. The reports of Domestic Missionaries were called for:— Brother Ellis reported, by letter, that he had spent forty-one days in the service of the Convention; that he had baptized seven persons; had been at the ordination of six ministers and two deacons, and that he had attended the formation of one Association; but knowing the low state of our funds, he hoped the Convention would receive it as a gratuitous service. Brother H. Holcombe reported that in 1827 he had rode forty-nine days; had been at the constituting of one church, and the ordination of two deacons, which had been previously reported by letter, but did not reach the Convention; that since that period he had rode twenty one days, with a view of serving the interests of the Convention, but that he desired no compensation for that service.

11. *Resolved*, That brethren Ellis and Holcombe are entitled to the thanks of the Convention, for their disinterested services.

12. Brother Crowson reported that in 1827 he had rode twenty days, and for that period about the same number. For the first number it was considered that Brother Crowson was entitled to the same compensation as all other missionaries who served the Convention during that period; but that for the latter number of days he would be compensated agreeably to the 19th article, in the Minutes of 1827.

13. Brother McCraw, with the Treasurer, was appointed to arrange the funds.

14. *Resolved*, That for the present, it is thought inexpedient to appoint more than one agent; and it appearing probable that Brother Butler could be obtained to fill that office, it was

Resolved That there be a meeting of the Board, in Montgomery, on the Friday before the fifth Sabbath in November next, to consult with him, and make such arrangements as they may think proper.

16. As many of the friends of this body have failed in their attendance, it is

Resolved, That we, who are present, deem it proper, in the

fear and strength of the LORD. to bind ourselves to a more hearty uniting together in furthering the important objects we have in view.

17. Believing that it is the duty of all Christians to encourage and support every object that is calculated to advance the interest of the Redeemer's kingdom among men; and persuaded that Bible societies, Tract societies, Sabbath schools, and all such institutions are eminently suited to that purpose—

Resolved, That we earnestly recommend them as worthy of the most prayerful attention, and liberal support of our brethren:

18. The committee on nomination reported, and were discharged.

19. *Resolved*, That the next meeting of this body be held at Canton, Wilcox County, to commence on Friday, before the 2d Sabbath in November, 1830; that Brother Travis preach the introductory Sermon, or, in case of failure, Brother Butler; that Brother Compere prepare a Circular Address, on the necessity and importance of ministerial education.

20. *Resolved*, That two hundred copies of our Minutes be printed.

21. The committee appointed to select Preachers nominated, for Saturday, Brothers Lawler, Dennis, Crowson and Ryan; for the Sabbath, Collier, Compere and McKee.

22. Agreed that on the Sabbath we commemorate together the Supper of our LORD.

23. The Convention adjourned to the stand, and after the religious services were ended, separated under the hope of meeting again at the time and place above mentioned.

A LIST OF RETURNS.

SOCIETIES.	DELEGATES.	CONTRIBUTIONS.	
		D. M.	F. M.
Perry County,	{ JOHN DENNIS, A. G. McCRAW,	\$ 9 50	\$ 10 50
Green County,	{ JOSHUA RYAN, THOMAS CHILES.	3 50	17 50
Jefferson County,	{ H. HOLCOMBE, R. ROCKETT, Sen. J. A. HOLCOMBE.	11 62½	
Montgomery County,	L. COMPERE.	6 87½	
Bulah La. Society,	JOHN ELLIS.	12 56½	

DONATIONS AND COLLECTIONS.

<i>At B. Springs, Shelby County—by H.</i>			
HOLCOMBE.		3 00	
<i>At Hebron,</i>	Do.	23 50	
<i>At Hopewell, Perry County,</i>		27 50	
<i>At Canaan Church,</i>		8 18½	
<i>Robert Scott and Sister,</i>		2 50	2 50

SOCIETIES NOT RETURNED.

Tuscaloosa co. so.	Marian la. so.	Bellville la. so.
Monroe co. so.	Hopewell la. so.	Munroe la. so.
Conecuh co. so.	Wilcox la. so.	

TREASURER'S REPORT.

	For	D. M.	F. M.	Educa.
Balance in hand,		\$18 87½	\$ 0 00	\$10 00
Received at this meeting,	'08 75		30 50	

ACCOUNT WITH DOMESTIC MISSIONARIES.

To	Due at this meeting.	To be paid by the Treasurer.	Due at this time.
	D. c.		D. c.
Brother Ryan,	8 28½	5 84	2 44½
Crowson	23 60	16 67	6 93
Holcombe,	55 38	39 12½	16 25½
Perkins,	12 18½	8 00	4 18½
Travis,	29 26½	20 67	8 59½
Ellis,	9 68	6 84	2 84
Blythe,	11 94	7 94	4 00
Baines,	1 97	1 97	

RECAPITULATION.

For Domestic Missions,	\$ 127 62½
Foreign Do.	30 50
Education,	10 00
	<hr/>
	168 12½

APPROPRIATIONS.

To Domestic Missionaries,	\$ 108 5½
To the General Convention,	50 50
For Printing Minutes,	20 00
	<hr/>
	158 55½

BOARD OF MANAGERS.

Brother JOHN ELLIS, *President.*

J. RYAN,
H. HOLCOMBE } *Vice-Presidents.*

L. COMPERE. *Corresponding Secretary.*

A. J. HOLCOMBE. *Recording Secretary.*

TEMPLE LEE. *Treasurer.*

MANAGERS.

Brethren JOHN MAY,	Brethren ROBERT MARSH,
JAMES L. GOREE,	J. HARRISON,
H. W. MIDDLETON,	A. G. M'CRAW,
JOHN GINDRAT,	JOHN DENNIS,
E. KING,	JOAB LAWLER,
R. H. SCOTT,	JAMES M. SCOTT,

AGENT.

DOMESTIC MISSIONARIES.

JOHN ELLIS,

J. PERKINS.

(Signed) A. K. HOLCOMBE, *Recording Secretary.*

*The Baptist State Convention of Alabama,
To our Brethren in general.*

DEAR BRETHREN,

We have a claim on your attention! A claim, founded on the vital principles of life and immortality; a claim, not only on your patient reading of this little Address, but, also, for your deliberate consideration thereof, as a subject involving the very highest business of human life.

We are in earnest! Not to amuse you with fanciful words, but to reach your understanding with unadulterated truth. We do not address you as a popular assembly!—Popularity often carries the world in its train, with little dependence on truth:—while reason, remands the multitude to rectitude of thought and action by a slow progression.—Nor do we attempt to labour in argument, to prove the things which the Christian world, with open eyes, cannot avoid seeing for themselves. If it were not an evangelical work, the whole strength of anti-christian subtlety, spleen, and rancorous ambition, would not have been leveled against its operations. We do see, that in any shape of Missionary exertion, as in all other true forms of proceeding, by the Church of Christ, there is an opposing medium of action. The powers of darkness, have, in every age, been permitted to sustain a dreadful warfare; but they never have, and we rejoice in believing they never can prevail, only so far as to manifest the Sovereign purposes in so permitting, and the Almighty power in finally silencing every tongue. It is certainly known—and why should we now wonder at it?—that the very depth of satanic invention has always been practised to produce dissension in the Church of Christ! Dissension and inactivity form at once strength to our enemies, and weakness to ourselves. Our object, then, is plainly to declare, that we have no views distinct from the united interest of the Church; from the fellowship of the Spirit. What arguments will you require to be convinced of this? And if the love of Christ will not constrain you to fall in with us, what powers of sympathy will you wait for? Does conference with flesh and blood—does the world—and do the evil influences of the powers of darkness, persuade you that we are running before the precepts of the Gospel? Would these insidious agents have you to suspect in us some specious design—some flattering speculation? We invite you try the case to the bottom! scrutinise the motives; bring every work to the light. We ask this as a favour; we demand it as a common right among brethren; we insist upon it, if you would do yourselves and us justice! If we have gone wrong, the multitude of your brethren who have so gone, and the magnitude of their error, cries after you for their speedy return. But if they have really gone in pursuit of their duty, and are looking with prayerful anxiety for your coming up to their help, how can you delay? To sit still, is to die! To oppose the truth, is to injure your own soul. But to be work-

ers together with God, is to enjoy His presence—it is to live for ourselves, to live for the world, to live unto and with God! How then shall we be the workers together: is it to be by the plans and devices of men? No! But by the precepts of the Gospel! But we are not all agreed about these precepts. Come then and let us confer together.

The Gospel says, "go every where, and teach all nations."—Will you question when it is to be done? We think you would agree, that, whenever there is no Providential, no physical, nor moral hindrance, amounting to human impossibility, the command requires direct obedience. The time has been, when unlimited obedience was not practicable. The reign of antichrist was destined to have its term, and its accomplishment. The Providence of God has already declared that the glory of his strength is faded away.—"The mighty ones shall fall, and a little one shall become a thousand." There is nothing, now, to hinder the Church from going forth in her strength; and that strength shall be renewed, by waiting upon the counsels of the Most High, until the whole of His work shall be accomplished. Already, by the Spirit of His Son, He is consuming and casting down; for this is the determined manner of operation. The physical revolutions of Nations are under the Divine control; who shapes them according to the counsels of His own will; but, surely, it is His Spirit, in the Gospel, which is to give the reign of antichrist the death blow. How then, shall we wait to see it expire? Would we rise to war against a prostrate enemy? Already the Lord of Hosts is marshalling his armies to the battle! The conquest is to be won, not by power, not by the might of men, "but by my Spirit, saith the Lord."

Do you next inquire, how is this work to be done? We answer, first, by having a mind to work, and then by using all the natural and all the moral powers which God has enabled us to apply to His service. All Nature is the work of His hands, and we have nothing in Nature, or in Grace, but what may be made subservient to the purposes of the Gospel. The gold and the silver which He has made, were designed, subordinately, for the secular convenience of man, but more primarily for higher objects; and as far as money can be made subservient to the necessities of those whose lives are directed to the Gospel, that higher object may be answered. The knowledge that the world is in love with money, does not amount to an argument against its abundant use for religious purposes. The idolaters, and all the falsely religious world, having no better sacrifice to offer, bring it profusely to their profane altars; but the disciples of Christ sacrifice it without the camp—or to external purposes.

There is, now, much necessity for it. It is required not only for the daily support of Teachers, but also for the large supply of materials—for compensation to artists and labourers to furnish copies of the Scriptures and other books, for the instruction of millions of our fellow mortals. The want of co-operation of our

brethren, is, now, the greatest obstacle. The work is actually in progress, and will, assuredly go on; but from a rational view of the subject, we do not hesitate to say that a general union of our brethren would increase our energies an hundred fold, without being burdensome to any. And we are authorized to believe, that as far as our labour has extended, it has not been in vain.—For what then are you waiting? We ask you to do nothing but what the Gospel enjoins. We do not profess perfection in our system of operation: every work to which we put our hands is more or less contaminated with human imperfections; but this does not excuse us from laying to our hands, nor can it avail you, to point out our errors, if you will not assist us to correct them.

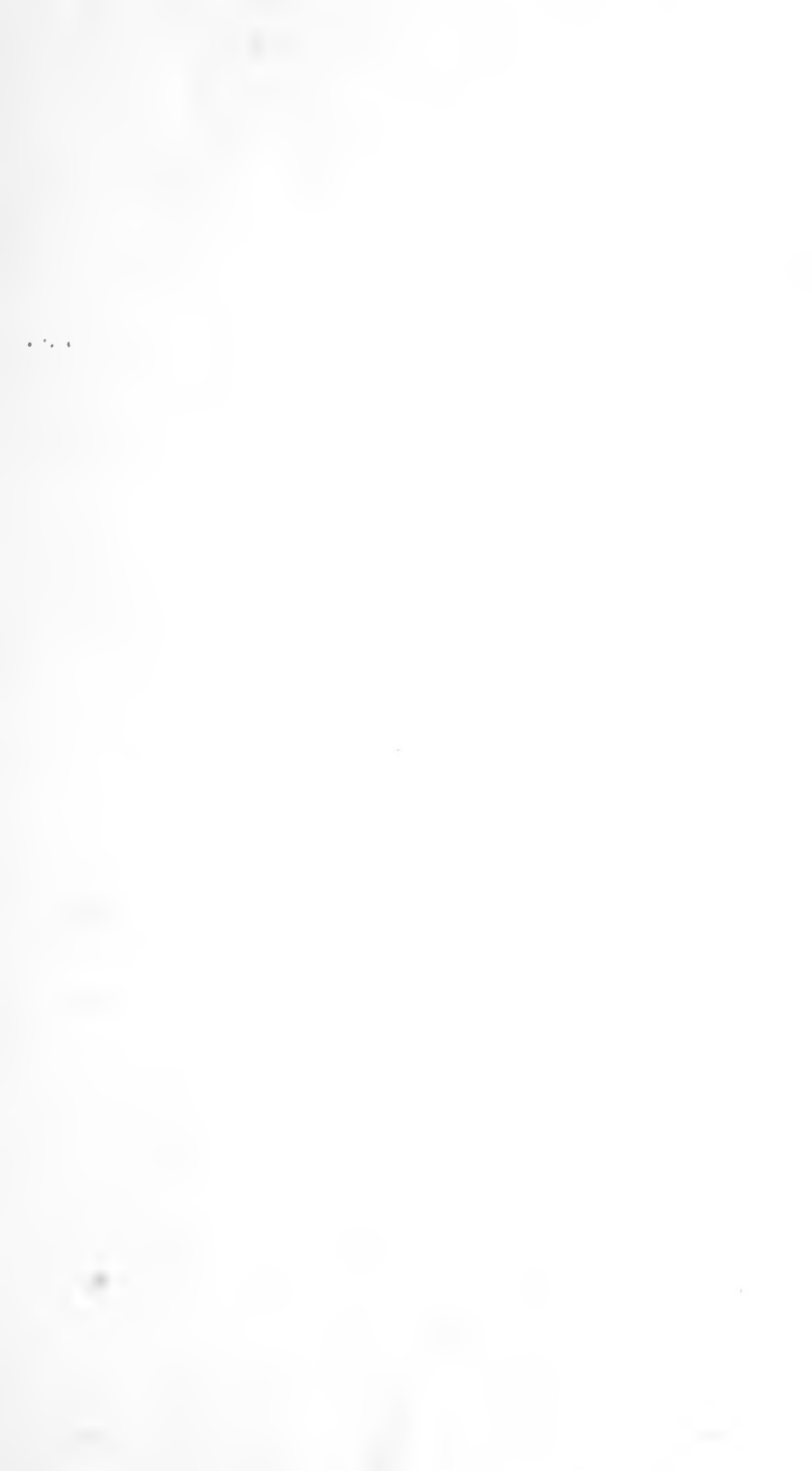
We could now fill pages with well authenticated accounts, which have filled our hearts, of the good effects of our Missionary brethren in many parts of the earth, but such information is abundantly within your reach. We would rather mention, as a subject of very serious grief, that the names of some of our brethren, and other morally disposed persons, are known as subscribers for such periodical publications as are solely devoted to ridiculous misrepresentation of the Gospel cause, to read, imbibing, and communicate such fir brands, arrows, and deal, and to neglect those sources of correct information which were first brought into use for salutary purposes, we say, does solemnly affect our hearts. We hope our brethren will not continue so to do. When such publications are imposed on the world, it is well to read as much of them as may be necessary to confute their sophisms, and expose their wickedness; but surely, you will say, more than that is bidding them God speed. These engines, which cast up mire and dirt, are now abroad in the earth. Why are they not in motion before the friends of truth employed to proclaim to communicate, weekly, the operations of the Gospel? Do you not read in some of them that the prince of darkness is systematically bringing his several bands in closer order. If your design is a united church, and the little scruples with regard to the Bible being the Word of God, are, according to these deceitful charms, all to be laid aside.

These things we leave with you, hoping that the day is not far distant when we shall see eye to eye and be all of one heart and one mind, in the things which make for peace and salvation

Montgomery: from the Journal Press.

1829,

Minutes of the Baptist
State Convention for
14th Session





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